

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

DATE: January 21, 2010

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:32 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 6:26 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDING MEMBERS

Benjamin Hunter, Chairman
Ginny Cain
Brian Mahern
Dane Mahern
Angela Mansfield
Janice McHenry
Mary Moriarty Adams
Christine Scales
Mike Speedy

ABSENT MEMBERS

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 218, 2009 - amends the Code to provide for motorcycle parking meter spaces
"Do Pass" Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 484, 2009 - authorizes a change in parking meter zones on New York Street
(District 15)
"Do Pass" Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 17, 2010 - approves the Mayor's appointment of David Sherman as the director
of the Department of Public Works
"Do Pass" Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 18, 2010 - authorizes parking restrictions on Franklin Road from 21st Street to
the dead end (District 17)
"Do Pass" Vote: 9-0

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

The Public Works Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, January 21, 2010. Chair Benjamin Hunter called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. with the following members present: Ginny Cain, Brian Mahern, Dane Mahern, Angela Mansfield, Janice McHenry, Mary Moriarty Adams, Christine Scales, and Mike Speedy. Also in attendance was Councillor Ed Coleman. Representing Council staff was Robert Elrod, General Counsel.

Chairman Hunter stated that he is glad that Councillor Speedy will be chairing this committee in February and he would like to pass the gavel over today. Councillor Speedy stated that he looks forward to working with staff and members of this committee.

PROPOSAL NO. 17, 2010 - approves the Mayor's appointment of David Sherman as the director of the Department of Public Works

Director Sherman stated that it has been an interesting two years and he is happy to stick around for a third year if ok. He stated that Jeff Roeder has moved on to the Mayors office and Dennis Papenmeier will be taking his place. He stated that Mr. Papenmeier has worked in The Department of Public works (DPW) in the past, and has been a neighborhood liaison for the Mayors office. He said they are glad to have Mr. Papenmeier. Director Sherman stated that one of the great projects during his term was \$185 million, including budget overrides, the secondary treatment process the contract was awarded for \$54.6 million for it is a more robust project that is going to handle secondary treatment more and allows DPW to have money to do other things. He stated that they are fixing the north bound interceptor project, where people on the north and mid-center sides of town were having sewage overflow problems. This project was estimated to cost \$100 million, but they are getting it done for much less with a savings of over \$40 million. Director Sherman said the bids came in at \$47 million. He said another thing that they have tried to do this year is to look at what quality of life issues there are. He stated that they now have four projects on line to get 5,700 properties connected. Last year alone they connected 1,500 homes to the sewage system off of the septic system. He stated that they have the pothole problem down from an average of 17 to about one and a half to two days.

Director Sherman stated that through the Solid waste program, the 96 gallon carts are working well. He said that in the spring of this year, they will be looking at how to cart the entire city side, and they will have new machines in April. This will provide better service with less trash around. He stated that in 2009, they had a 29 percent reduction in citizen complaints with leaf pickup and other programs, they were able to buy more vehicles, and they will have replaced over 50 percent of the fleet by the 2010 snow season. He stated that because they are doing a lot of sidewalk and curb work, Indianapolis was recognized last year by the National Organization of Disabilities as 2009's most disability-friendly city in the United States.

Mr. Sherman stated that this year, they are going to be doing about \$87 million dollars of transportation /construction work in the city, and that will be pretty important, They will provide 235 lane miles of pavement, rehabilitate 17 bridges and reconstruct over 98 thousand feet of

sidewalk and 32 traffic signals. He stated that they created an alley program to fix the alleys with thanks to Councillor Mahern and others for bringing some concerns to their attention. He stated in 2008 and 2009 they started doing the crack ceiling work and they have done about 250 lane miles and have reduced complaints by 5,000. In 2009 and 2010, they will do over 1,000 lane miles.

Director Sherman said they were awarded an 8 million energy efficiency conservation block grant and therefore, they will be able to do the retrofits with the 70 buildings, more bike lanes and get all of the lights and signals transferred to be more energy efficient. He said more importantly, they will have less fuel consumption by being more coordinated. Mr. Sherman stated that he feels that the DPW is running a lot more efficiently than they have in the past. He stated that he is really proud of the operations division, because of training, they have increase the response time in fixing guardrails by 340%, and they have done a lot of work in a much more efficient way. He stated that they have reviewed a lot of management practices and have come up with a lot of good ideas to get things done. He stated that the union is happy with them and that he is very proud of his managers. In 2010 the Council will see a lot more of DPW working with them on specific projects. Director Sherman stated that on January 1, 2010, they will be taking over parks forestry and by the spring they will inherit the parks maintenance. He stated that 2010 will be better than 2009.

Councillor Speedy stated that 2009 was a great year for DPW and he hopes that 2010 will be as well.

Councillor Mansfield stated that she recently heard that Director Sherman was working with the state to try to encourage them to change their allocation of the gas excise tax and to consider the conditions of various communities' verses just linear feet of streets. Director Sherman stated that they have not been able to get anything going with the state on that issue.

Councillor Speedy stated that when they were approving the new vehicles, there was an anticipated savings for maintenance. He asked if they were already seeing the savings and to what extent. Director Sherman stated that they have the fleet under their control and that they were paying 150% of maintenance, but the cost is going down with the new trucks other than a little burning of the oil. He stated that in 2010, they have been projecting the concerns of fuel; they estimated their budgets based on \$2.47 per gallon; currently, they are paying about \$2.37. He stated that because of what they are projecting and what they are seeing in the first phase with the new police and DPW vehicles, they believe that even if gas gets up to the range of \$2.60 or \$2.70, they will make it up in the maintenance services.

Councilor Scales thanked Director Sherman for the job that he and his staff have done. She asked how they managed to get the projects done within the reduced amounts. Director Sherman stated that when he first started there was a \$3.5 million consent degree and \$300 million in overruns, so they broke down the projects and re-evaluated them. He stated that they brought in

people and came up with a new approach to program management. He stated that they were going to build a \$185 million process of conduct stabilization, with a bio-solid approach, it became pretty sight specific and very expensive because of the way they had designed it. He stated that they brought in people and ideas to build a secondary treatment and came up with a process that worked better and take in more sewage. Director Sherman stated that on every phase of DPW, they are picking up some dollars. He stated that on the solid waste side, with the cart program they failed to put in a chain of custody, so they had no track of who purchased them, stole them, or what to do if a cart was to break down. He stated that they now have a system and those things create savings.

Councillor Scales asked Director Sherman if he will get the appropriate amount of budget allocation to do the parks maintenance. Director Sherman stated that they will be under-funded and it will take a while, but they will turn it around in a couple of years.

Councillor D Mahern stated that there has been a lot of improvements within the engineering section of DPW, and he would like to know a little more information on how that is going. Director Sherman stated that they did a gap analysis, because in the engineering field, they do a breakdown of how their organization is structured, how they purchase, and how they do things. He said they realized that they have some people who can work at a certain level and some who cannot. There are several people who have left because they were not going to be able to perform at this level. He said they created some opportunities to bring in people where they may have to pay them a little more, but the amount of productivity is much better because these people are used to using these systems. He stated that they are also going to bring in a primavera construction schedule since they will have such a massive program. Director Sherman stated that he has been engaged in program management on a large scale from Australia to Los Angeles and from Houston to Indianapolis, and they have now installed a system that is structured for large program management using a combination of city employees and consultants. He stated that the organization, as it is structured today, on the sanitary side and transportation side, may be that the head guy is a city employee and the next guy is a consultant, and then underneath may be a city employee reporting to the consultant. This is not on the human resource side, but on the production and communication sides and that has been very successful throughout the world.

Councillor Moriarty Adams stated that she wants to be added as a co-sponsor on this proposal. She thanked Director Sherman for his vision, direction and professionalism in running the Department of Public Works. She stated that she was delighted when Mayor Greg Ballard accepted him as director. She stated that she needs about twelve panels of sidewalk at Orchid and Zinnia Streets. as it is completely rubble.

Councillor McHenry thanked Director Sherman and his staff and stated that she has noticed such an improvement in the last two years.

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor McHenry, to send Proposal No. 17, 2010 to the full Council with a “Do Pass” recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 9-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 218, 2009 - amends the Code to provide for motorcycle parking meter spaces.

Nathan Sheets, Senior Project Manager, DPW, stated that they had a meeting regarding how to proceed with this proposal. They have refined the original proposal and have added additional locations for the meter spaces.

Councillor Coleman stated that this initially came out because he was approached by some members of the patriot guard who mentioned downtown parking. He stated that since the economy is bad and gas prices are up a lot more, people are using motorcycles and scooters to commute. He initially decided to put together a proposal that would take about six total parking spaces downtown and turn each individual space into three spaces for motorcycles. Councillor Coleman stated they had a very productive meeting and decided to leave the proposal as it is and make it a first step or kind of a test thing. He stated that they want to implement this and see how it works. He stated that every three parking spaces would get one pole with three meters and the price for parking will stay the same as one normal car space. Councillor Coleman stated the Councillor Nytes suggested expanding it to Massachusetts Avenue. He said there will probably be about two or three more proposals over the next year. He stated that convenience for people, air pollution, and a lot of different reasons why they should move forward on this proposal.

Councillor D. Mahern stated that there were a lot of different people involved in the meeting and they decided to break it down into some subsequent proposals that will be coming down the line. He stated that the meeting was a level playing field for the community and others who have invested an interest in this to come together and discuss ideas and to make sure that everybody's concerns were brought to the table. He stated that they want to make changes and to always think of new ways to make the city more fuel efficient and have better air quality. Councillor D. Mahern thanked the people that have spent a lot of time on this proposal.

Councilor B. Mahern thanked the people from Indianapolis Downtown, Inc. (IDI) for their engagement, expertise and willingness to work, as well as the City. He said that he looks forward to more good work with regard to small vehicle parking. He stated that it is economically and environmentally friendly.

Councillor Hunter asked if they would refer to this as a pilot program. Councillor Coleman stated that he would call it more of a test program. He stated that they are going to monitor this to see how it is working, and Dennison parking will be keeping an eye on it as well. The meter will provide information regarding how much this is used and how effective it is for Indianapolis as it goes forward. Acting Chairman Speedy asked how many spaces are going to be in this first phase. Councillor Coleman stated that they are going to be taking out six regular parking spaces and each space will become three motorcycle parking spaces. Acting Chairman Speedy asked

how will the motorcycles riders find out where the parking spaces are. Councillor Coleman stated that there will be signage to mark them as motorcycle parking. Acting Chairman Speedy asked if this will be ready by the time the weather is warm. Mr. Sheets stated that it is the intent as well as making sure it is ready for Formula 1 events.

Councillor Scales asked if some kind of time period could be included in the proposal since it is a test. Councillor Coleman stated that they had discussed that, but they feel that it is going to be good and the consensus is that if it does not work they will just come back and deal with it then. Councillor B. Mahern stated that he feels it will be well-received, and that he has seen a number of instances where people have parked motorcycles and scooters illegally, because many of the garages automatic gates do not accommodate motorcycles. He stated that if it does not work out, he will be open to coming back and reclaiming those spaces for cars.

Councillor D. Mahern stated that they did not put a time schedule on this, because DPW, with the City and the Mayor's Office, have been looking at an overall proposal for downtown parking and it could possibly be changed with that proposal.

Councillor McHenry asked why the measurements for Virginia Avenue are so much different than the rest of the streets. Mr. Sheets stated that the parking on Virginia Avenue is a 90 degree angle rather than parallel, so the amount of space needed is less. Councillor McHenry asked why there are only five parking spaces mentioned on the proposal, but six has been mentioned. Mr. Sheets stated that the actual spaces are still being discussed, but there is the potential that there may be an amendment before it goes to full council. Councillor Mansfield asked if this means that they are not ready for the committee to vote on this today. Mr. Sheets stated that they could simply do a separate proposal to add the Massachusetts Avenue piece. Councillor D. Mahern stated that there has been lot of time spent on this, and he would think that it would be easier to do on a separate proposal, if needed, because he does not want to hold this up and miss another opportunity.

Councillor Scales stated that there seems to be a lot of stake holders who want to have input into this proposal and a lot of concerns need to be addressed. She asked how the success would be measured and who will be doing that. Mr. Sheets stated that there was discussion with Dennison parking, because they provide the enforcement. It was agreed upon that as their officers are walking by, they would make notes of motorcycle parking. He said IDI. does a meter occupancy study and they agreed to look at it, as well. Additionally Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) can also audit the meters.

Councillor D. Mahern moved, seconded by Councillor Mansfield to send Proposal No. 218, 2010 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 9-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 484, 2009 - Public Works Committee authorizes a change in parking meter zones on New York Street (District 15)

Mr. Sheets stated that this proposal is to remove two meters along the north side of New York Street, just east of Delaware Street, to establish a vehicle loading zone. The building owner has a perspective tenant that would need a loading zone in order to drop off goods.

Councillor Cain moved, seconded by Councillor Moriarty Adams to send Proposal No. 484, 2009 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 9-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 18, 2010 - Public Works Committee authorizes parking restrictions on Franklin Road from 21st Street to the dead end (District 17)

Mr. Sheets stated that this proposal will install parking restrictions along Franklin road. He stated that this is because of some access issues that were brought to Councillor Moriarty Adams by the Indianapolis Fire Department (IFD). IFD is unable to get in and out of the roadways because of its narrowness. They recommended that some parking restrictions are done along the west side of Franklin Road. Councillor Moriarty Adams stated that she was contacted by IFD Station 444, and they stated that there is a food pantry along the north side of 21st Street and the people who access the food pantry park all over Franklin Road. As a result, IFD has had trouble going north on Franklin Road off of 21st Street to address emergency needs. They cannot get their outriggers out to position the fire engines if there was a fire on that road.

Councillor Scales moved, seconded by Councillor B. Mahern, to send Proposal No. 18, 2010 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 9-0.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Public Works Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MS/klh

Michael Speedy, Chair
Public Works Committee